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PRIORITY

By hmg, NARS, Date 5/4/77

ACTION DEPARTMENT 1595, INFORMATION ANKARA 10.

CUBA

STEVENSON CONFIRMED TO KURAL (TURKEY) TODAY THAT KUZNETSOV HAD RAISED SUBJECT OF TURKISH BASES WITH HIM. STEVENSON SAID HE HAD TOLD KUZNETSOV MATTER COULD BE DISCUSSED LATER AFTER CUBAN MISSILE THREAT ELIMINATED BUT THAT PROPER WAY DISCUSS MATTER WAS IN CONTEXT DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. STEVENSON ADDED IT IMPORTANT RETAIN CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY ON HOW AND WHEN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE BUT ASSURED KURAL THAT IF AND WHEN SOVS BRING UP TURKISH BASE PROBLEM, TURKEY AND NATO WILL BE FULLY CONSULTED BEFORE ANY SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE. STEVENSON GAVE KURAL FULL BRIEFING ON MOST RECENT ASPECTS VERIFICATION PROBLEM.

KURAL EXPRESSED "UNDER INSTRUCTIONS" THANKS OF HIS GOVT FOR WAY STEVENSON HANDLED TURKISH BASE ISSUE IN SO MEETINGS AS WELL AS HIS OWN ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S BOLD INITIATIVE. STEVENSON SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE LATTER TO PRESIDENT.

STEVENSON

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